



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Park Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Carver County Public Works Headquarters Building
11360 Hwy 212 West
Conference Room #3

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (7:00 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the February 13, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:01 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:03 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (7:04 p.m.)
- 5) Open to the Public (7:05 p.m.)

- 6) New Business (7:10 p.m.)
 - a. Proposed Amendment for an Extension to the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Master Plan

- 7) Staff Reports (7:45 p.m.)
 - a. Update on AIS Program
 - b. Lake Minnewashta Park Off Leash Dog Area
 - c. Minnesota Astronomical Society Building Construction
 - d. Southwest Regional Trail
 - e. Planned 2015 Extension of MN River Bluffs Regional Trail
 - f. Events and Activities
 - g. Legislative Update
- 8) Commission Member Reports (8:00 p.m.)
- 9) Set Next Meeting Date (8:05 p.m.)
- 10) Adjourn Meeting (8:10 p.m.)

Please note if a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please call the Park Office at 466 – 5250.

Draft
Meeting Minutes
February 13th, 2013

Members Present: Thomas Hermann, Myron Karki, Jim Manders, Ron Trick and Commissioner Tim Lynch

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz

CALL TO ORDER: Karki called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.
Karki acts as Park Commission Chair as senior member.

Nomination & Election Of New Officers: Trick makes a motion to proceed with process of Commission Chair & Vice Chair, Hermann seconds motion. Motion passed 6 to 0.
Hermann makes a motion to nominate Myron Karki as Park Commission Chair, Trick seconds the motion. Motion passes 6 to 0. Manders makes a motion to nominate Cindy Dobratz as Park Commission Vice Chair, Karki seconds the motion. Motion passes 6 to 0.

MINUTES: 7:04p.m. Trick motioned to approve the minutes of the January 9th 2013 regular meeting minutes. Manders seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 to 0.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:
7:05p.m. N/A

AGENDA: 7:05p.m. Trick motioned to approve meeting agenda, Hermann seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 to 0.

Public Present: 7:06p.m.
Gregg Elliott – Chanhassen
Steve Mohn – Chaska/Eden Prairie
John Pierson – Chaska
Bruce Baker – Chaska
Brent Baker – Chaska
Joe Fiedler – Chaska
Kurt Zuappal – Chaska
Mark Schneider – Victoria
Eric Fieldseth – Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
Tim Kraft – Chaska

Judy Berland – Chanhassen
John Hayes – Chaska
Kerri Hawk – Shorewood
Laurie Susia – Chanhassen

New Business: 7:06p.m.

A. 2013 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program(s)

Staff provided a power point presentation reviewing the County AIS programs and results from 2012. The presentation reviewed lakes where services were provided, the number of part-time staff hired, funding methods and official agreements with the DNR. The presentation by Staff also outlines three possible options for services in 2013. This presentation included details of anticipated funding methods for each option. After presentation, Karki asks about the timeline of submitted applications for outside funding. Pertz responds informing an end of February to end of March anticipation for the grant opportunities with the State/DNR. Karki asks Staff about the Board “needs/desires” for the February 26th meeting. Walsh informs Park Commission that the Board has asked the Park Commission to endorse an option for the 2013 season. Hermann asks Staff about reference to New Mexico in the presentation. Staff explains that States of New Mexico, Nevada have been suggested as having exceptional programs in place to prevent the spread and infection of AIS.

Park Commission members introduce themselves, sharing where they come from within the County. Commission Chair Karki addresses those in attendance from the Public and how they should present to the Park Commission.

Public addresses Park Commission:

Laurie Susia – Lotus Lake/Riley Purgatory Watershed

Thanked the commission for programs done in 2012, excellent work, much appreciated.

Questioned how were the lakes selected in your 2013 plan for programs?

Staff responded: Based on Water Management District, based on size, popularity, demand etc.

Judy Berland – Lake Minnewashta Homeowners Association

Thanked the commission for the work done in 2012, excellent job, we really appreciated your work.

Kerri Hawk – Christmas Lake Homeowners Association

Thanked the commission for listening to their opinions and requested consideration for Option C (multi-lake inspection system)

John Hayes – Wasserman Lake Homeowners

Questioned what happened with the boaters found noncompliant in 2012, and have compliance levels increased?

Staff responded, in two of the three instances where Zebra Mussels were found, citations were issued. The instance at Lake Waconia did not result in a citation because incomplete information was collected at the time of the inspection, which did not allow DNR Staff to locate the individual. Pertz went on to share compliance percentages shown to increase from start to end of the program(s). Pertz indicates such increase is byproduct of continual awareness of the inspection services, public education of the AIS concern and greater responsibility by boat owners to maintain clean watercraft.

Gregg Elliott – Christmas Lake Homeowners Association

Spoke about “Option C”, advocating the Park Commission and Staff to consider such option. He also indicated that the Christmas Lake Homeowners has taken steps in preparation for “Option C.”

Steve Mohn – Chaska/Eden Prairie, Coalition of Minnehaha Waters, Pierson Lake

He shared his thoughts about AIS being a larger, on-going issue that is not going to go away. He indicated that “Option C” with a centralized inspection system to be the answer.

John Pierson – Pierson Lake Homeowners Association

Indicated he has given some thought to “Option C” and believes to have found an amendment to that option, with still working towards a multi-lake system. He suggested that Lake Minnewashta and Lake Waconia be the sites for inspections to take place, serving the entire County. The system would involve a color coded pass given to boaters, administered by inspectors at the identified lakes. Roving inspection staff would perform sites throughout the County to assure pass accuracy on vehicles. Signage at each boat access in the County would be installed, informing users of potential fines associated with noncompliance watercraft.

Karki asks about passes and leaving the County boundaries.

Staff reminds Park Commission/Public that the County does not have authority at DNR access.

Tim Kraft – Friends of Bavaria Homeowners Association President

He updated the Park Commission on work at Lake Bavaria, speaking of weed control on the lake for many years, with no reliance on funding from County or City. He advocated for a centralized inspection system (Option C). Kraft shares his perspective of the conversation at Tuesdays County Board Workshop session when looking to the future the centralized system is likely coming. Kraft indicates the anticipated funding (\$7,000) from their Homeowners Association needs to be raised.

Rick Berland – Chanhassen

Thanked commission members and Park Staff, excellent work in 2012.

Kurt Zuappal – Chaska, Pierson Lake Homeowners Association

Congratulated the Park Commission and Staff on the public process and taking a stand on the AIS issue. He informs the Commission that there is a need for more education on the issue, and supports “Option C” with the amendment John Pierson presented. He goes on to say we must start addressing the issue now.

Mark Schneider – Victoria

Recognizes the AIS topic is a complicated subject and not easily solved or addressed. He shares his appreciation for the work done in 2012 and work being considered in 2013.

Joe Fiedler – President of Wasserman Lake Homeowners Association

He shared with the Park Commission that Wasserman Lake began a Homeowners Association because of the AIS concern/issue, and to take a stance with others in the County. He informs the Commission that Wasserman Lake is a very small association, but feels strongly to protect the lakes. Fiedler feels “Option C” is the best and should be the ultimate goal for the County. Explains “Option C” to be the most logical in his mind, and emphasizes the need for more education on the issue. It is also indicated by Fiedler that “Option C” can achieve 100% compliance, long-term, which is why it should be considered. He speaks of collaboration between: Homeowners Associations, Cities, County, and DNR is the best approach.

John Pierson – Pierson Lake Homeowners

He shared with Staff and Park Commission that Homeowners are more than willing to help in planning work.

Park Commission addresses Staff with questions:

Hermann – What about number of decontamination units with DNR and plan to purchase more?

Pertz responds that in meeting last fall, the DNR did not indicate to increase the number of decontamination units, and they currently have 23 units in use. Pertz also indicated the decontamination units were not heavily used with only 700 decontaminations performed state-wide.

Manders supports “Option C” or a variation of such option. Encourages Staff to look at funding avenues and make best fit for 2013 (and beyond) to work towards a full “Option C” or multi-lake inspection system.

Ives- Similar view point and thought as Manders, with a long-term thought process. He indicates that for 2013, “Option B” is the best plan.

Aasen communicates with group that he is an avid fisherman in the County and beyond. Aasen goes on to share his disappointment with the inspections/inspectors he has encountered because he believes they are poorly trained in the inspection process. Aasen blames the DNR for this poor training, being incomplete and inadequate. He explains his belief that most fisherman would support "Option B" and that most fisherman keep their boat very clean and compliant with the State laws. Aasen believes the public should be allowed to take a training with the DNR, and if passed earn a season pass and ultimately eliminating the inspections for such individuals. Aasen recommends a version of "Options B and C."

John Pierson – Pierson Lake Homeowners

Comments that it seems as though a "season pass" for those who took/passed the training is reasonable.

Karki shares with the group his concern to protect the Lakes, but sees concern with the fact that many lakes have various accesses (both public and private). He mentions to Commission that Staff is recommending "Option B" for 2013. Karki sees value in forming a Task Force to work on the issue, with efforts to advance ideas/amendments to the options of B and C. Karki informally asks members of the public present whom might be interested in this volunteer Task Force, nearly all members present indicated such desire. Karki concludes by saying he is a strong believe in accomplishing work locally.

Staff clarifies to Commission members that Board stance and feedback from Tuesday's Workshop session was support for Options A or B in 2013, Option C was not.

Manders again comments on the need to look further into "Option C." Hermann indicates he believes "Option B" is a band aid for the issue.

Aasen make a motion of "Option B", with recommendation to look further into "Option C" and amendments to "B" for 2013 in working towards "C." Trick seconds the motion. Motion passes 6 to 0.

Again Karki speaks to the member of the public of the Task Force. Staff reminds Commission that Board will need to take action on such Task Force.

No further questions or comments.

Staff Reports (8:21p.m.)

Lake Minnewashta Off-leash Dog Area:

Staff provides all information pertaining to the recent situation at the Dog Park at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. A detailed presentation and interactive discussion between Staff and Commission takes place, updating Commission members on: how the Dog Park was developed; why fencing was not initially constructed; signage showing rules/regulations and cautions; mapping; staff comparisons between other Dog Parks in the Metro and Staff work that has taken place since instance was reported.

Commission members see the Dog Park functioning as it should, and find no issue with system or layout. Ives, a frequent user of the Dog Park recommended taking another look at fencing costs to exclude the wetland area, and ultimately avoid situations similar to this one. Staff suggests looking at the Dog Park on a spring tour.

No further questions or comments.

Minnesota Astronomical Society Building Construction:

Staff reported on construction activity for the two new Minnesota Astronomical Society facilities at Baylor Regional Park. Work reported since Commission meeting in January is extensive work on the education classroom of roofing and electrical work.

No additional questions or comments.

Southwest Regional Trail:

Walsh reports final design and appraisal work has been completed and letters have been sent to cities of Chaska and Victoria. Staff hopes bidding of project can take place this spring, and work to take place this summer.

No additional questions or comments.

Events and Activities:

Pertz informs Park Commission that Park Department was unsuccessful in their grant application for funding a larger community event intended to run in conjunction with the Grand Opening Ceremony in New Germany this summer. Pertz goes on to share successes of archery programming this month with the cities of Waconia and Chanhassen.

- After school Beginners Archery at Chanhassen Rec. Center 4:00-5:00p.m. – each Wednesday in February
- Parent/Child Beginners Indoor Archery at Waconia Ice Arena 1:00-2:00p.m. – each Sunday in February
- February 18th - Winter Survival Camp Blast at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park 9-5p.m.

- February 21st - Seniors Indoor Archery at Chanhassen Rec. Center 1:30-3:30p.m.
- February 23rd - Family Snowshoeing 101 with Waconia P&R at Lake Waconia Park 10-12:00p.m.
- February 23rd - Candle Lit Ski at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park 6-9p.m. NEW - Photo Contest!
- February 23rd - Family Learn to Ski! at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park 12-2p.m.
- March 3rd - A Journey Through Winter Family Event at Baylor Regional Park 9a.m.-5p.m.
- March 16th - Maple Syrup Open House at Baylor Regional Park

No additional questions or comments.

Commission Member Reports: (8:47p.m.)

None at this time.

Next Meeting Date: (8:48p.m.) March 13th 7:00pm Public Works Building

Adjourn Meeting: (8:50p.m.) 8:50p.m. Hermann motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manders seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 to 0.



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DIRECTORS REPORT

March 13th, 2013
REGULAR PARK COMMISSION MEETING

To: Members of the Park Commission
From: Martin Walsh, Parks Director
CC: Lyndon Robjent, County Engineer
Tim Lynch, County Commissioner
Date: 3/12/2013
Re: March 13, 2013 Regular Park Commission Meeting

New Business:

A) Proposed Amendment for an Extension to the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Master Plan

Carver County has been made aware that the City of Carver is proposing to construct a trail along County Road 11 from 4th Street to Carver Bluffs Parkway this summer. The City has requested consideration for assistance with financing the construction of a portion of the trail between the intersection of County Road 40 and Carver Bluffs Parkway. The request for regional funding consideration is consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space System Plan for the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail.

In order for the request to be eligible for regional funding, the Metropolitan Council must first approve a master plan amendment which addresses the requirements outlined in the Regional Parks and Open Space System Plan. The proposed amendment would add approximately 2.7 miles of trail to the planned Minnesota River Bluffs Regional trail when completed.

Attached to this report are maps which show proposed extension of the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail. Map 1 shows the planned extension in red and in relation to other regional trails. Map 2 shows the core and primary service areas of the trail. Corridor maps 1, 2, and 3 provide greater detail as to the trails location. These maps also show potential alternate routes for portions of the trail.

Staff will review the proposed master plan amendment with the commission.

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission recommend to the County Board the Master Plan Amendment for the Extension of the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail.

Staff Reports

A) Update on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

The County Board took action at its February 26, 2013 meeting approving the Option B level of service. In addition, the Board directed Staff to consider alternatives which could allow for boaters wanting to access Christmas Lake to be inspected at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Staff has been in contact with the DNR concerning the Board's direction and a meeting will be held in the future to discuss possible alternatives. The Board did not act to form a task force for a centralized inspection program at that meeting.

B) Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Off-Leash Dog Area

Staff is following up on obtaining price quotes for fencing work at the off-leash dog area for consideration with other 2013 park projects. Several additional contacts by members of the public have been made requesting that the entire off-leash dog area be fenced.

C) Southwest Regional Trail

Work continues on negotiating purchase agreements for land that is needed. Permitting the project is underway from the various agencies.

D) Minnesota Astronomical Society Building Construction

Construction continues for the new facilities at Baylor Park with planned work to install the doom roof on the Casby Observatory in the near future.

E) Planned 2015 Extension of MN River Bluffs Regional Trail

The County has received word that federal grant funds to construct and pave a segment of the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail were approved for 2015. The project would construct a paved trail on the former Union Pacific Railroad corridor from Athletic Park in Chaska to the City of Carver levee and out to County Road 40. Staff will be working to select and engineering firm to develop the Project Memorandum and construction documents in preparation for a 2015 bid opening.

F) Upcoming events and activities include:

March 3rd - A Journey Through Winter Family Event at Baylor Regional Park 9a.m.-5p.m.

March 16th - Maple Syrup Open House at Baylor Regional Park 10a.m. – NOON

G) Legislative Updates:

- a. Parks and Trails legacy Bill, the legislative process to divide up Parks and Trails Legacy Funds between the State Park System, Metropolitan Regional Parks and

Parks of Greater MN continues. Several hearings have been held in connection with the proposed funding distribution by the Parks and Trails Legacy Funding Committee. Of concern is the equitable distribution of funding as well as a defined Regional Park System of Greater Minnesota. At this time the proposed Greater Minnesota Regional Park System lacks sufficient data as compared to State Parks and Metropolitan Regional Parks. This data would assist with the development of an equitable funding formula. Metropolitan Regional Park implementing agencies are advocating for an increase in the amount of funding they would receive through a funding distribution formula.

- b. Bonding Bill, a bill appropriating \$10.5 million for Metro Regional Parks CIP projects has been jacketed. The bill was planned to be introduced last week. If the bill is passed the potential funding that the County could receive is \$454,000 to partially reimburse the County for previous land acquisitions, construction of a bypass lane at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park, and for preliminary design to remodel the Baylor Regional Park Visitor Center.
- c. Operations and Maintenance Bill SF 1067, is a bill appropriating \$4,050,000 per year. The House companion bill is also planned to be introduced soon. Carver County receives approximately 9% percent of its operations and maintenance funding through the State and Metropolitan Council. In 2012 Carver County received \$107,000 for O & M costs.
- d. Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF), bill HF 1119 for 15 projects to enhance/restore about 2,450 acres of wildlife habitat in Metro Regional Parks has been introduced totaling \$6.39 million. The bill has been referred to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. There is sufficient money in the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund to finance this bill in FY 2014 without cutting projects proposed by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for FY 2014. The bill includes \$200,000 for forest and prairie restoration at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park
- e. Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission, HF 1065/SF 1021 are the bill numbers. This legislation works to provide funding for the commission to conduct business related to the Regional Park System in Greater Minnesota.